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2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM DERMODY

TOM DERMODY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • HOUSE DISTRICT 20



CREATING HOOSIER JOBS

I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of highway and bridge projects in our state. These projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Another job friendly measure I fought for this session was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

I supported giving senior citizens, and all Hoosiers, the ability to vote to constitutionally cap their property tax bills to no more than 1% of their home's assessed value. Additionally, it is now clear that senior citizens are able to receive both the senior citizen's property tax deduction and the supplemental standard deduction. I also voted to have courts work through established programs when appointing advocates for incapacitated persons over the age of 55.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We must first live within our means. Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was very pleased that there were no new taxes passed this session.

BOOSTING SMALL BUSINESSES



I voted to delay a \$350 million tax increase on nearly 80,000 Hoosier employers, more than 72,000 of which were small businesses with 1-49 employees. This tax increase was passed last year without my support. I also voted to remove the employee threshold on the EDGE tax credit for job retention. Previously the threshold required an employer to have at least 35 employees in order to be eligible for the tax credit, but now small businesses will also be eligible for this incentive.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.



SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I voted to protect veterans from debt collectors who try to collect from service members' disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure that all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat.



HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.